

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /094 W

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R 131105Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3747

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12441

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ENRG, UK

SUBJECT: STATUS OF BNOC

1. BRITISH NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (BNOC) OPERATIONS
WILL BEGIN SLOWLY ACCORDING TO JEREMY EVANS, WHO IS
SLATED TO BE SECRETARY OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE.

2. PENDING FINAL PASSAGE OF THE PETROLEUM AND SUB-
MARINE PIPELINE BILL WHEN HOUSE OF LORDS RECONVENES
IN LATE SEPTEMBER, THE INITIAL STAFF (TWO OFFICERS)
OF THE BNOC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE HAS BEGUN OPERATIONS
IN A TEMPORARY REGENT STREET OFFICE. EVENTUALLY,
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HEADQUARTERS WILL BE SITUATED IN GLASGOW.

3. EVANS, FORMERLY AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY IN DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, TOLD US THE INTENT IS TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY TO INSURE THE BEST STAFF IS SELECTED AND THAT A GOOD START IS MADE WITH THE OIL INDUSTRY. INDUSTRY HAS ARGUED THROUGHOUT THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR BNOC. ORGANIZING COMMITTEE WILL SEEK TO AVOID PROBLEMS THAT AROSE WHEN THE OFFSHORE SUPPLIES OFFICE WAS CREATED AND STAFFED ON SHORT ORDER WITH INEXPERIENCED PERSONNEL.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BNOC CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE, LORD KEARTON, IS NOW ACTIVE IN AN INFORMAL CAPACITY. HE IS MEETING WITH OIL COMPANIES NOW FOR GENERAL DISCUSSIONS AND TO RECRUIT STAFF.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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